Times-Virginian

Church News

DR. WAYNE COMPTON [LEFT] of the Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center is shown accepting a check from the Rev. Rex Bennett, pastor of Liberty Baptist Church. The money was donated to support the ongoing projects at the 4-H Center.

Tonya Hunter cited for musical talent

Tonya D. Hunter

Tonya D. Hunter, 15, the daughter of Robert Hunter, was crowned Miss Greater Western District in Roanoke on May 20. She also won first place in the talent competition for her clarinet solo. She was crowned Miss Music, 1982 in Portsmouth on May 22 for the State of Virginia, Third Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ.

Tonya, a member of Prayer of Faith Temple, Church of God in Christ, 9th and Taylor Streets in Lynchburg is a sophomore at E. C. Glass High School. She plays the clarinet in the Hilltoppers Marching Band and bass clarinet in the Symphonic Band.

"My goal in life," said Tanya, "is to become a symphonic musician and to continue to put God first in everything I do. The person I admire most is my pastor, Elder Norton B. Wilder."

Church slates Mass

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, located at the intersection of Routes 627 and 631 will hold Sunday Mass at 11 a.m. this Sunday, June 13. Father Elliott will be celebrating Mass in the absence of Father Pereira.

Immediately following Mass there will be a covered dish luncheon.

Church slates revival

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church of Buckingham County will be having their revival the week of June 21-25.

Rev. E. R. McDowell of Brookneal will be holding the services. There will be special singing. The services start at 7:30 p.m.

Homecoming will be on Sunday, June 20 with lunch to be served at 12:00.

Rev. Robert Wilkerson is host pastor. The public is invited.

WOW slates picnic

The Woodmen of the World, Camp 71 and Grove 6073, will hold their annual picnic on Sunday, June 13 at the Woodmen building, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

All members are invited to come, and bring their families. The ladies are asked to bring their favorite dessert.

Bible & Daily Living

Christ showed love for those scorned

By William L. Trimyer

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the News Testament we find Christ acting compassionately towards those who were classified as publicans and sinners. Jesus did not spend his time "hobnobbing" with the "upper crust" of his day. Showing special concern for the unlovables was characteristic of Jesus.

The "publicans and sinners" flocked to hear him because he received them and affirmed them as persons of worth. Jesus spent productive time with those classes of people who needed him most.

Jesus was constantly criticized for his involvement with the "lower class" citizens of his day. But Jesus sought to challenge the prevailing prejudices against those who were socially despised.

The spirit of Christ must be followed by the church in its ministry to the unlovables in our society. The saddest epitaph that could be given to the church is this: "That which was instituted to care for others has cared only for itself."

The church cannot be the church if the people of God refuse to reach out to the socially outcast.

UP A TREE[Luke 19:1-4]

One day as Jesus passed through Jericho he encounters a man up a tree. Why would someone climb up a tree to watch a parade go by? Well, the scriptures suggest that Zacchaeus was a man of small stature, and that he was not well-liked because of his profession as a tax-collector. Zacchaeus was humiliated because of his size, so he climbs up a tree in hopes to catch a glimpse of Jesus, whom he had heard so much about.

Physical appearance is such a concern in our society. The television, radio and news media urges us to eat, drink, and drive and wear certain things in order to better our image.

Nothing can be more vicious than to mock or degrade a person because of their appearance. In our society we condemn people for being too fat, too skinny, too tall, too short, too black, too white, or too ugly.

The picture of Zacchaeus up that tree is a sad one. He was a lonely man, an outcast up a tree to catch a mere glimpse of Jesus. I think we can relate to Zacchaeus and his need to be found. Can you imagine playing a game of hide and seek and no one coming to find you? We all find ourselves from time to time in the lost and found department, that is, we cry for companionship, we crave someone who will accept us where we are, and we long for someone who will "claim" us as a worthy person.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? [Luke 19:5-7]

Zacchaeus was totally surprised by Jesus' response. When Jesus saw Zacchaeus, he said with the words and warmth of a good friend, "Zacchaeus, come down, for I would like to go to your house and eat a meal with you." Out of this encounter there emerged a new creation. But those who stood by "wagged" their tongues and murmured against Jesus, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner."

The response of Jesus was one of grace. Zacchaeus never dreamed that Jesus would become a guest in his home.

I Once Was Lost But Now I'm Found [Luke 19:8-10]

Jesus won Zacchaeus through love and choosing to get at his bad side by means of his good side. Jesus didn't say, "Come down from that tree you little sawed-off sinner!" Had Jesus approached Zacchaeus in this manner, Zacchaeus may have climbed down and walked away in contempt.

If you come at me where I am already weak, my first inclination is to throw up my defenses. Zacchaeus knew he was a sinner. He did not need anyone to tell him that. What he needed most was love, acceptance and guidance.

Whereas everyone else isolated Zacchaeus and drove him further into his hiding places, Jesus called him out and proceeded to love him. This is the gospel, namely, that Jesus came to seek and save them that are lost. He is a friend to all those who feel they must hide up a tree.

The church exists to carry on the same compassionate spirit of Christ. When we refer to those people with problems as "sinners," we only deepen their despair and drive them further into their hiding places.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WL-YP).

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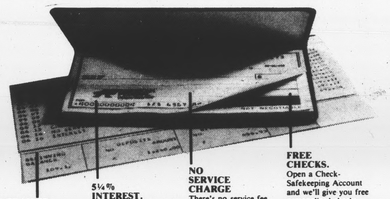

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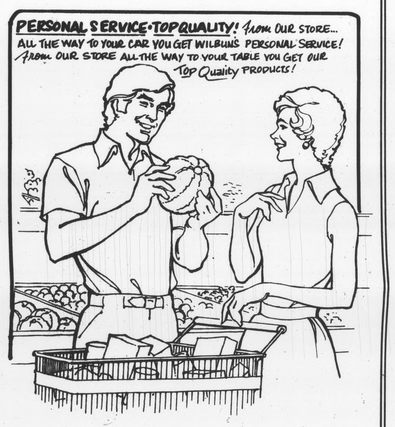

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